



Be on the Alert Against Fraud Stay Informed with the FTC



The Federal Trade Commission • 1-877-382-4357 • www.ftc.gov

Tip-offs to Rip-offs

The Federal Trade Commission is America's consumer protection champion. Here are some tips to help you be a savvy consumer.

1

Know who you are dealing with.

Don't do business with any company that won't provide its name, street address, and telephone number.

2

Protect your personal information.

Share credit card or other personal information only when you're buying from a company you know and trust.

3

Take your time.

Resist any urge to "act now" despite the offer and the terms. Once you turn over your money, you may never get it back.

4

Know the risks before you invest.

Every potentially high-profit investment is high-risk. That means you could lose your investment – all of it.

5

Read the small print.

Get all promises in writing and review them carefully – especially the ones in small print – before you make a payment or sign a contract.

6

Never pay for a "free" gift.

Throw away any offer that asks you to pay for a gift. If it's free or a gift, you shouldn't have to pay for it. Free is free.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, report it. If you're a victim of fraud, there is a way for you to get even with the scam artists who cheated you. By reporting your complaint to www.ftc.gov/complaint or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP you are providing important information that can help law enforcement officials track down scam artists and stop them!